

Having described my invention what is claimed is:

[00001]

A standoff holder for an ultrasound transducer probe used in diagnostic ultrasound exams or therapeutic ultrasound treatment to insure coupling with a body comprising:

an elongated elastic sock for mounting over a probe comprising a first open end and a second end and an internal aperture extending therethrough, wherein, said first open end includes an expansion collar including a plurality of spaced rigid strips mounted circumferentially about said probe's coupling portion.

[00002]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 1 wherein:
the spaced rigid strips are separated by elastic sock forming a plurality of expansion ribs
and said elastic sock comprises a series of parallel axial ribs of elastic material.

[00003]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 2 wherein:
the elastic sock comprises material with decreasing flexibility and increasing rigidity
from the second open end to the expansion collar at the first open end.

[00004]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 1 wherein:

The rigid strips in the collar comprise a spaced plurality of axial plastic strips.

[00005]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 1 wherein:

the cross-sectional configuration of the elastic sock is round.

[00006]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 1 wherein;

the cross-sectional shape of the elastic sock conforms to the shape of the probe.

[00007]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 1 further including:

a gel insert removably mounted and self-adjusting within the ribbed collar.

[00008]

A standoff holder for an ultrasonic transducer probe used in diagnostic ultrasound exams or therapeutic ultrasonic treatments to insure coupling with a body comprising:
an elastic sock for mounting over a probe comprising a first open end and a second open end
and an internal aperture extending therethrough to accommodate a probe;
an elastic collar mounted about the probe and extending outwardly from the sock; and,
a gel insert removably mounted and self-adjusting with the collar in engagement with the probe and extending outwardly therefrom.

[00009]

A standoff holder in accordance with Claim 8 wherein;

the probe includes an acoustic window mounted within the collar in contact with the gel insert.

[00010]

A standoff holder for an ultrasonic transducer probe used in diagnostic ultrasound exams or therapeutic ultrasonic treatments to insure coupling with a body comprising:

an elastic collar mounted about a probe; and,

a gel insert removably mounted and self-adjusting within said collar in engagement with the probe and extending outwardly therefrom.

[00011]

A method of making an ultrasound standoff insert used to couple an object and an ultrasound transducer comprising:

a pad having the ability to transmit ultrasound waves to and from a body;

said pad is cut to form an insert by tracing the circumference of a standoff holder mounted on a transducer;

said tracing provides markings on the surface of said pad; and,

said markings form the shape of said standoff holder and said transducer,

whereby said tracing provides a template that is cut therethrough forming said insert which is utilized to couple said transducer with said object.

[00012]

A standoff insert for an ultrasonic transducer probe used in diagnostic ultrasound exams or therapeutic ultrasonic treatments to insure coupling with a body comprising:

a gel insert which is removably mounted and self-adjusting within a collar in engagement with a probe and extending outwardly therefrom.